

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MELBOU 00592 141912Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 FBO-02 A-01 USIA-06 /025 W

----- 017460

R 130602Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2744

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0592

FOR EA/EX; A/SY

E O 11652 N A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY: CONSULATE GENERAL MELBOURNE

REF: A) MELBOURNE 0556; B) MELBOURNE 0569; C) MELBOURNE 0255

1. REFTELS (A) AND (B) CONFIRM BOASTS OF LOCAL MILITANTS THAT THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT MAJOR ATTENTION AFTER VIETNAM HAS PASSED FROM THE HEADLINES. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS AND POSSIBLY MORE DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES LESS WELL PUBLICIZED IN ADVANCE MUST BE ANTICIPATED.

2. WITH COMPLETION OF THE STAIRWELL MODIFICATIONS WHICH SEALED OFF UNCONTROLLED ACCESS TO THE 8TH AND 9TH FLOORS FROM THE REST OF THE BUILDING BELOW (REFTEL C), CONGEN MADE POSITIVE STEP IN ESTABLISHING MINIMUM SECURITY OF PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. HOWEVER, THE MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEM CONTINUES, I.E., THE SHARING OF THE 8TH FLOOR WITH TWO PRIVATE FIRMS. AN EASY SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT, SINCE AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE LEASE ON MOST OF THE PRIVATE FIRM SPACE EXPIRES IN JULY AND THE CONGEN HAS FIRST OPTION ON SECURING THIS AREA. OUR SECURITY POSTURE REMAINS UNTENABLE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS (A) WE HAVE ALL THE 8TH FLOOR AND (B) ALL PUBLIC FUNCTIONS ARE LOCATED ON THE 8TH FLOOR AND THE 9TH FLOOR BECOMES A TRULY RESTRICTED AREA.

3. THE FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE TO CONSOLIDATE AND REITERATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MELBOU 00592 141912Z

THEM AT THIS TIME IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING BELIGERENT ACTIVITIES

DIRECTED AGAINST OUR PREMISES;

A. THE CONGEN'S MOVE IN APRIL 1971 WAS APPROVED BY THE DEPT UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS THAT NOT ONE SQUARE FOOT OF NEW SPACE WAS TO BE OBTAINED OVER THE 10,772 SQ FEET THEN OCCUPIED IN THE OLD BUILDING. THIS MEANT THAT WE COULD NOT TAKE UP THE WHOLE OF THE EIGHT FLOOR AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS INCLUDING THE CONSULAR SECTION HAD TO BE PUT ON THE NINTH FLOOR. THE FACT THAT 10,772 SQUARE FEET WAS INADEQUATE IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS HAD NO BEARING ON THE DEPT'S DECISION. SINCE THIS UNFORTUNATE DECISION, THE CONGEN HAD SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES BOTH IN PLANNING AND UTILIZING THE SPACE IN THE NEW BUILDING. TIME HAS ONLY COMPOUNDED OUR PROBLEMS.

B. THERE ARE TWO MAIN REASONS WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ACQUIRE THE REMAINING SPACE ON THE 8TH FLOOR (ONE AREA OF 1515 SQ FEET - THE BOTH 600 SQ FEET) WHICH IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY TWO DIFFERENT AUSTRALIA FIRMS. THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF SECURITY. THE SECOND REASON, AND THE IMPETUS FOR THE URGENCY OF THIS MESSAGE, IS THAT THE LARGER SPACE (1515 SQUARE FEET) WILL BECOME AVAILABLE ON JULY 1, 1975. FUNDS FOR LEASING AND RENOVATION OF THIS AREA HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN OUR BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR FY 1976-77.

C. IN ADDITION TO COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AND OTHER SENSITIVE OFFICES, THE 9TH FLOOR PRESENTLY CONTAINS THE ADMINISTRATIVE, CONSULAR AND RECEPTION AREAS. THE STEADY FLOW OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND SUPPLIES TO THESE SECTIONS DEMANDS SPACE WHICH DOES NOT EXIST. THE RECEPTION AREA IS JUST LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE TELEPHONIST/RECEPTIONIST PLUS TWO CHAIRS AND A SMALL TABLE. THIS SPACE OPENS ON TO THE CONSULAR SECTION LOUNGE WHICH CONTAINS APPROX 150 SQ FEET, BUT WHICH HAS IN ITS EXACT CENTER A TWO FOOT SQUARE PILLAR WHICH CUTS DOWN ON THE USABLE AREA CONSIDERABLY. SINCE THE VISA SECTION IS CURRENTLY ISSUING IN EXCESS OF 200 NIV'S A DAY AND U.S. CITIZEN PASSPORT AND WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS DEMANDS ARE HEAVY, THERE IS ALWAYS A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING AND GOING THROUGH THIS TOTALLY INADEQUATE SPACE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MELBOU 00592 141912Z

ADDING TO THIS ACTIVITY IS THE FACT THAT THE SAME AREA (RECEPTION) IS UTILIZED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION AS A DELIVERY/DESPATCH ROOM THROUGH WHICH ALL SUPPLIES, POUCHES, MAIL, TELEGRAMS, ETC. MUST PASS IN ORDER TO BE RECEIVED IN EITHER THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OR IN THE MAIL ROOM. OUR MAIN FEAT IS THAT THIS AREA IS POTENTIALLY READY MADE FOR A TERRORIST INCIDENT. IT WOULD TAKE LITTLE OR NO PLANNING FOR A MEMBER OF ANY KIND OF DISSIDENT ORGANIZATION TO ARRIVE BY ELEVATOR, THROW OUT A BOMB OR GRENADE AND

MAKE HIS EASY ESCAPE BEHIND CLOSING DOORS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO WAY OF PREVENTING SUCH AN INCIDENT UNDER PRESENT CROWDED ARRANGEMENTS, THE SITUATION CAN BE REMEDIED BY ACQUIRING THE SPACE ON THE 8TH FLOOR TO WHICH THE RECEPTION AREA AND THE CONSULAR SECTION WOULD BE MOVED. THIS NEW LOCATION WOULD SET THE RECEPTION AND THE CONSULAR AREA AWAY FROM THE ELEVATORS, BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. THE 9TH FLOOR WOULD THEN BE CONVERTED INTO A COMPLETELY SECURE AREA AS THE ELEVATORS COULD BE TERMINATED AT THE 8TH FLOOR. THIS WOULD CONSOLIDATE ALL PUBLIC ACTIVITIES, E.E., THE COMMERICAL SECTION, USIS AND THE CONSULAR SECTION ON THE 8TH FLOOR.

D. BY ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL SPACE, A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT DEFECTS CAN BE REMEDIED:

(1) AN ADEQUATE CONFERENCE ROOM CAN BE PLANNED WHICH WILL ALLOW GREATER UTILIZATION FOR EVER INCREASING OFFICIAL SEMINARS AND MEETINGS.

(2) CONSULAR SECTION EMPLOYEES WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN ONE AREA. PRESENTLY A SENIOR CONSULAR SECTION EMPLOYEE IS FORCED TO USE A TINY OFFICE OF 124 SQ FEET WHICH IS DOWN THE HALL FROM THE MAIN CONSULAR SECTION. SHE SHARES HER OFFICE WITH TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT AND TRANSFORMERS WHICH MAKE A CONSTANT NOISE, PREVENTING HER FROM WORKING AT FULL CAPACITY.

(3) COMMERICAL SECTION EMPLOYEES WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN ONE AREA, RATHER THEN DIVIDED AS IS THE PRESENT SITUATION.

(4) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTION ARE SORELY STRAINED BY THE FACT THAT THE LIBRARY IS SO SMALL THAT THERE IS ONLY SPACE FOR ONE TABLE FOR THE MANY VISITORS TO WORK AT BECAUSE THE ROOM ALSO CONTAINS THE DESKS OF THREE LOCAL EMPLOYEES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MELBOU 00592 141912Z

THE TELEPHONE RINGS CONSTANTLY, TYPEWRITERS ARE ALWAYS IN USE AND A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS MAKES THE WHOLE AREA OF APPROX 400 SQ FEET A LESS THAN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR EITHER THE CONSULAR EMPLOYEES OR THE VISITOR.

(5) ADDITIONAL URGENTLY NEEDED PROGRAM SPACE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESENT CROWDED USIS SECTION.

(6) PRESENT INSUFFICIENT POST STORAGE AREA WOULD BE INCREASED, ALLOWING UNPACKING OF SUPPLIES THAT NOW CANNOT BE PLACED ON SHELVES DUE TO LACK OF SPACE.

(7) CONSULATE STAFF DOES NOT HAVE, AT PRESENT, ANY SPACE FOR COFFEE BREAKS OR TO EAT LUNCH, BUT MUST MAKE DO IN A SMALL PASSAGEWAY BETWEEN TWO VERY BUSY AREAS. SINCE THE

CONSULATE GENERAL IS LOCATED IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE FEW RESTAURANTS, MOST OF THE EMPLOYEES MUST USE THESE POOR FACILITIES IF THEY ARE TO EAT LUNCH AWAY FROM THEIR DESKS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR ALL THE FOREGOING REASONS IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LANDLORD OF OUR OFFICE BUILDING FOR THE LEASING OF ALL SPACE ON THE 8TH FLOOR NOT PRESENTLY UNDER CONTROL OF THE USG. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE LARGER AREA BECOMES AVAILABLE JULY 1, 1975. THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO RECTIFY SERIOUS SECURITY AND OPERATIONAL DEFICIENCIES WILL BE LOST FOR ANOTHER SEVERAL YEARS IF WE NOW FAIL TO ACT QUICKLY IN OBTAINING THE SPACE.  
BRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MELBOU00592  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750169-0719  
**From:** MELBOURNE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750558/aaaacaaw.tel  
**Line Count:** 183  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MELBOURNE 0556, 75 MELBOURNE 0569, 75 MELBOURNE 0255  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECURITY: CONSULATE GENERAL MELBOURNE  
**TAGS:** ASEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006